

Honorable Chair and Members
of the City Council Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: City Manager – Review and recommend that City Council approve the 2015-2016 Priority Projects

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee review and recommend that City Council approve the 2015-2016 Priority Projects.

BACKGROUND

On December 23, 2014 City Council approved a consulting services agreement with Van Scoyoc Associates for government consulting to include advocacy services and funding acquisition. The selection of Van Scoyoc Associates was based on the firm's expertise and a solid track record in the ability to successfully identify grant opportunities, guide the application process and secure funding.

The objectives of the City were identified to be:

- A voice in Washington, D.C.
- Early intelligence on emerging legislation impacting local government
- Be on the front side for funding during legislative framing
- Successful targeted grant applications and allocation

ANALYSIS

On January 21, 2015, the Executive Staff met with Steve Palmer, Vice President of Van Scoyoc Associates, to review and discuss 2015-2016 priority projects of each department. The goal of this meeting was to get acquainted, discuss the legislative climate, and highlight potential projects for funding and strategies. Information on each project included: project title, requested amount, overview, detailed description, benefits, timeline and to identify potential grant funding. A total of 53 projects were identified across the categories of Economic Development/Redevelopment, Energy, Environment, Safety, Technology, Transportation and Water. Many of these projects are aligned with the City's Strategic Plan developed by our residents and businesses. However, this is a "Wish List" of projects. Staff needed to reduce the number of projects and determine those projects that had the best funding potential.

In July 2015, key staff from each department met with a representative from Blais and Associates, who provide grant writing services to the city. The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss projects, gather information on funding feasibility, match requirements and identify potential funding sources for each project. Funding information was gathered from both the federal government consulting and grant writing firms. From past experience in promoting priority projects to legislators, agencies and committees, staff recommends that 3-4 priority projects be identified to promote for funding opportunities. This strategy will allow for a more targeted approach with a clear and concise message.


After analyzing each project staff would like to recommend the following 2015-2016 Priority Projects:

1. I-405 at 182nd Street/Crenshaw Boulevard Operational Improvements
(Public Works)
2. Body Video Cameras & Storage System **(Police)**
3. Training on Fair and Impartial Policing, Mental Illness and Homelessness **(Police)**
4. Rubber Wheel Trolley – Red Car Line Circulator **(Transit)**

The Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee along with the Assistant City Manager, Public Works Director, Police Chief, and Transit Director are scheduled for a trip to Washington, D.C. in early November. The purpose of the trip is to meet with Congress and Senate members, various agencies and committees to discuss the benefits of these projects and gain support for funding.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
CITY MANAGER

By 
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CONCUR:


LeRoy J. Jackson
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